

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The final Office Action of March 31, 2004 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, Claims 1-21 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 9, 10 and 11-15, 17, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Niwano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,452,656); rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Niwano et al.; rejected claims 7, 8, 18, 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niwano et al. in view of Applicant's Related Art (ARA); rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niwano et al. in view of Jacobson (U.S. Patent No. 6,124,851). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The rejection of claims 1-5, 9, 10 and 11-15, 17, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Niwano et al. is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "wherein the data electrode and the common electrode generate an in-plane electric field substantially parallel to the first and second substrates for controlling an amount of light at the respective pixel region." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and claims 2-5 and 9-10, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 11 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 11 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "wherein the data electrodes and the common electrodes generate an in-plane electric field substantially parallel to the first and second substrates for controlling an amount of light at the respective pixel." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11, and claims 12-15, 17, 20 and 21, which depend

therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.


For at least similar reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, the rejections of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Niwano et al. and claims 7, 8, 18, 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niwano et al. in view of ARA are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. In addition, since Jacobson fails to cure the deficiencies of Niwano et al., Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 16.

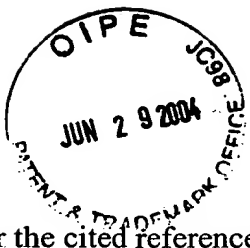
Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: June 29, 2004

Respectfully submitted,


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